

What is Disability?

Presented by Kay Dean
National Disability Coordination Officer

Enhancing the Links seminar
Blacktown 25th May 2011



What is Disability?

DDA, DSE, AT & SWD

What's it all about?



Legislation:

- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) (1992)
- DDA Standards for Education (2005)
- NSW Anti-Discrimination Act
- Privacy Act

Disability is broad!



The definition under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) is intentionally broad, and disabilities covered by the Act include:

- physical
- sensory
- intellectual
- psychiatric
- neurological
- people that learn differently
- presence in the body of disease-causing organisms
- (chronic medical conditions)

DISABILITY: Examples



- **Physical:**

Spinal Cord Injury, Cerebral Palsy

- **Intellectual:**

Down Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

- **Psychiatric:**

Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder

- **Sensory:**
Hearing, Vision impairment
- **Neurological:**
Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy, Asperger's
- **People that learn differently:**
Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Scotopic Sensitivity
- **Presence in the body of disease-causing organisms
(chronic medical conditions)**
Diabetes, Cancer, Crohn's Disease, Cystic Fibrosis,
Arthritis



* Crohn's Disease * Liver failure * Cancer *
* Asperger's Syndrome * Chronic Fatigue Syndrome *
* Mental Illness * Kidney failure * Multiple Sclerosis * Dyspraxia *
* Anxiety Disorder * Dyslexia * Post Traumatic Stress Disorder *
* Eating Disorders * Bipolar Disorder * Autism * Depression *
* Neurological disability * Epilepsy * Hearing Impairment *
* HIV / AIDS * Learning Disability * Sickle-cell anaemia *
* Mobility impairment * Brain Injury * Cerebral Palsy * Diabetes *
* Schizophrenia * Vision Impairment * Epilepsy * Arthritis *
* Cystic Fibrosis * Heart Failure * Chronic Fatigue Syndrome *
* Spinal cord injury * Muscular Dystrophy * Down syndrome *

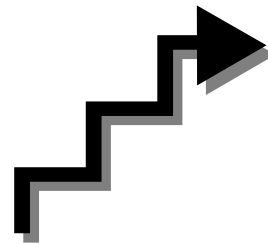
What is Disability?

Disability is broad

1 in 5 Australians has a disability

80% of disabilities are hidden

The **REAL** issue is not **WHETHER**
a person has a disability



But the **DEGREE** of
disability

AND

The **TYPE AND EXTENT OF**
ADJUSTMENTS needed to
overcome the effects of the
disability

Disability Education Standards



The DDA requires the Education Provider to avoid discriminating against a person with a disability in:

- Enrolment
- Participation
- Curriculum Development, Accreditation & Delivery
- Student Support Services
- Prevention of Harassment & Victimisation

Disability Education Standards



The person's disability should only be taken into account where it is reasonable & fair to do so

Such as:

Making adjustments to lectures, examinations, AT, etc. to address the effects of the disability



Disability Education Standards



The DDA does NOT require the Education Provider to :

- Relax standards
- Ignore essential requirements of a course
- Give a student with a disability an advantage
- Pass someone who has not deserved a pass

And in case you still need the acronyms explained



- DDA – Disability Discrimination Act
- DSE – DDA Education Standards
www.dda.edustandards.info
- AT – Assistive Technology
- SWD – Students with Disabilities